

DRINKING WATER QUALITY

Safe drinking water is important to all Californians – and to the state and federal agencies that comprise the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. One of the objectives of the CALFED agencies is to ensure continuous improvements in the water quality of the Bay-Delta for all beneficial uses. The Drinking Water Quality Program (DWQP) has met all of its first year commitments. Accomplishments include the following actions:

- Launched the Drinking Water Quality Program (DWQP) in 2000 to better focus on the public health aspects of the Program.
- Developed a Drinking Water Quality Improvement Strategy outlining specific actions and milestones for Stage 1 of CALFED implementation.
- Awarded approximately \$2 million in federal funds for five projects to improve water quality in the Delta and to provide data that will guide future actions and decisions.
- Developed a grant program to assist local agencies with drinking water improvement projects in 2001.
- Developed and began a feasibility study of the re-circulation of water exported from the Delta through the state and federal water projects.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: The Drinking Water Quality Program's goal is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water to the 22 million Californians who rely on the Delta for all or part of their drinking water. To reach this goal, DWQP actions combine cost-effective improvements in source water quality, advancements in treatment technology, and innovations in water management. Overall, DWQP will strive to effectively integrate drinking water source protection, treatment, and distribution in order to improve public health protection. Furthermore, DWQP will support health effects research of Delta drinking water, and will perform comprehensive monitoring and assessment of Delta drinking water quality.

DWQP is a non-regulatory, incentive-based effort focused on improving Delta drinking water quality, with a regulatory backstop and a respect for issues of environmental justice. The Program's implementation strategy is to partner with existing local agencies and programs, and specifically for source water protection actions, to cooperatively improve water quality in the Delta on a watershed basis. CALFED staff will manage the DWQP in close coordination with the appropriate state and federal agencies, including the Department of Water Resources, California Department of Health Services, State Water Resources Control Board, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board,